

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 EB-11 AID-20 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

CIEP-03 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /133 W

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O R 031415Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8469

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMTM DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

MOGADISCIO 144

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T JIDDA 5092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SA, ET, SO

SUBJECT: SAG CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN OF AFRICA

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE SULTAN CALLED AMBASSADOR IN ON SEPTEMBER 2 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER EVENTS IN HORN OF AFRICA. SULTAN SAID THAT SAG HAD NOTED WITH CONCERN PODGORNY VISIT TO SOMALIA AND RESULTING USSR-SOMALI TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, AND WAS ALSO CONCERNED OVER EVIDENCE OF SOMALI-PDRY COOPERATION. WHAT, ASKED SULTAN, WAS USG POLICY TOWARD GROWING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN BAB AL-MANDEB AREA?

2. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT GROWING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE WAS OF GREAT CONCERN TO US AND THAT DR. KISSINGER HAD SPOKEN TO BOTH FAHAD AND THE KING ABOUT THIS DANGER DURING EARLIER VISIT. AMBASSADOR WAS SURE SAG WOULD SHARE USG CONCERN OVER PROSPECTS OF CONSOLIDATED SOVIET PRESENCE IN
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PDRY, SOMALIA AND ERITREA. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE HAD

DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH OMAR SAQQAF SHORTLY BEFORE GOING ON LEAVE AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE VALUE IN CONSULTING WITH ETHIOPIANS ON SUBJECT. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, SULTAN REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION HAD COME TO SAUDI ARABIA (THOUGH HE TOO HAD BEEN ON LEAVE), BUT THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS IDEA WITH DR. RASHAD PHARAON; PERHAPS SAG SHOULD SEND ITS OWN DELEGATION TO ETHIOPIA, SAID SULTAN; AN OFFER OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE MADE. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO GET ETHIOPIAN ASSURANCES OF CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP WITH SAG. SULTAN AGREED TO THIS, BUT STATED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR SAG TO KNOW MORE ABOUT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA AND ATTITUDE OF NEW GOVERNMENT TOWARD COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN REGION. OUR ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET POSITION IN SOMALIA WOULD ALSO BE MOST HELPFUL, SAID SULTAN. SINCE HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS TOPIC IN TAIF ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ASSESSMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ASSESSMENTS BY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, AND NOTED THAT GENERAL TOPIC OF SOVIET DESIGNS IN BAB AL-MANDEB AREA WOULD BE SUITABLE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION DURING NOVEMBER USG-SAG SECURITY MEETINGS WHICH WE PROPOSED TO HOLD DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF NOVEMBER IN RIYADH. SULTAN AGREED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT SEND TO EMBASSY BY SATURDAY OUR LATEST EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF RECENT SOVIET ACTIVITIES AND LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVES. ASSESSMENT SHOULD BE SUITABLE FOR PRESENTATION TO SAG.
AKINS

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NNN

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